

Today's Topics:

ARRL Letter 24-Oct-89

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Subject: ARRL Letter 24-Oct-89

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|           Relayed from packet radio via           |
| N8EMR's Ham BBS, 614-457-4227 (1200/2400/19.2 telebit,8N1) |
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ARRL LETTER - Volume 8, Number 21- October 24, 1989

AMATEURS KEEP COMMUNICATIONS FLOWING
AFTER SAN FRANCISCO EARTHQUAKE DEVASTATION

An earthquake measuring 6.9 on the Richter scale and several aftershocks during the following days caused widespread damage in the San Francisco Bay area. ARRL Pacific Division Section Managers Bob Vallio, W6RGG, Richard Wilson, K6LRN, Glenn Thomas, WB6W, and other ARRL officials in the affected areas report that local amateur emergency nets on the 2 meter and 220 MHz bands are in full swing providing on site emergency communication assistance via amateur repeaters to public officials and representatives of The American Red Cross. The extensive packet network on 2 meters and 220 MHz in the San Francisco area has been dedicated to handling the heavy volume of Health and Welfare traffic.

Amateurs monitoring HF emergency net frequencies are advised not to transmit except in response to a request for assistance. Priority must be given to immediate emergency relief communications.

National Traffic System officials advise that welfare inquiry traffic may be routed via normal NTS paths. Priority in health and welfare traffic is being given to messages originating from the affected areas. Amateurs should advise the public to attempt normal telephone service first before initiating an inquiry via Amateur Radio. Messages should contain complete address and phone number.

SENATE ADOPTS BUDGET RECONCILIATION BILL WITH AMATEUR LICENSE FEES,
BUT THE BATTLE'S NOT OVER

On Friday, October 13, S. 1750, a stripped down version of the House of Representatives Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1989 (H.R. 3299) was

adopted by the Senate by a vote of 87 to 7. Senate leadership on both sides of the aisle blocked the introduction of any amendments to their version of the budget reconciliation bill. As it stands, S. 1750 includes fees for Amateur Radio licenses.

Now the good news. Senator Carl Levin of Michigan made a strong statement on the floor on behalf of amateurs. He said he had intended to introduce an amendment exempting amateur licenses from fees with Senators Symms of Idaho and Lieberman and Dodd of Connecticut, but that in view of the resistance to any amendments, he would not do so. The amendment he would have introduced would strike what he called "a new tax on Amateur Radio operators." Senator Levin said he did not believe the framers of the bill had intended to levy a new tax on Amateur Radio volunteers, and had confirmed this with Senator Hollings of South Carolina, Chairman of the Commerce Committee.

Senator Danforth of Missouri, the ranking minority member of the Commerce Committee agreed, and said that the Committee had managed to exceed its instructions on budget reconciliation and would work with Senator Levin to drop the matter of amateur fees from the legislation in the conference committee.

PRB-1 HELPS IN COSTA MESA ORDINANCE

Attention Costa Mesa amateurs: The City of Costa Mesa, California recently adopted an ordinance setting forth procedures and regulations for Amateur Radio antennas. The ordinance was developed with input from a number of hams including ARRL Director Fried Heyn, WA6WZO, Vice Director Wayne Overbeck, N6NB, and Assistant Director Art Goddard, W6XD.

The new Costa Mesa ordinance recognizes the fact that PRB-1 preempts state and local zoning regulations which seek to preclude Amateur Radio communications. It did note that regulations based on health, safety or aesthetics must represent a reasonable accommodation for Amateur Radio communications and must constitute the minimum practicable regulation necessary to carry out the local agency's legitimate purpose.

All antennas and towers erected in the City of Costa Mesa prior to September 6, 1989 have until May 7, 1990 to be registered so that they will be grandfathered. Antennas erected after September 6, 1989 fall into three categories: 1) Roof mounted antennas require no permit at all; 2) Antennas and towers under 30 feet require a permit, but there is no limit on the number of antennas; 3) antennas and towers over 30 feet require a permit and can be no higher than 75 feet with a maximum of two towers. There is no limit on the number of antennas under 30 feet.

The amateurs involved in getting the ordinance rewritten learned several things: Use PRB-1--it's an excellent tool, be prepared, know your facts and

most of all, be observant.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE FILES COURT PETITION SUPPORTING AMATEUR VIEW OF 87-14

Acting on behalf of the National Communications System, the Department of Justice has filed a petition in the US Court of Appeals for the DC Circuit requesting that the Court review the FCC decision in Docket 87-14 which denied reconsideration of the 220 MHz reallocation decision. The petition seeks review on the grounds that the FCC action was arbitrary, capricious and an abuse of discretion. It requests that the action be set aside and the matter remanded to the FCC. We will be hearing more of the ARRL suit in the future.

FCC ISSUED CALL SIGN UPDATE

The following is a list of most recently issued FCC call signs (October 1).

DIST	GRP"A" Extra	GRP"B" Advanced	GRP"C" Tech/Gen	GRP"D" Novice
0	WX0B	KF0FO	N0LBX	KB0FGF
1	NY1Y	KC1QM	N1GZF	KA1UMA
2	WT2I	KE2PK	N2JXX	KB2IPO
3	NW3P	KD3PD	N3HNQ	KA3VFA
4	AB4QX	KM4YQ	N4WZL	KC4MPI
5	AA50F	KG5YR	N5PHT	KB5KRX
6	AA6QX	KK6AG	N6WKV	KC6FYH
7	AA7BX	KF7XB	N7NPO	KB7ISH
8	WV8T	KF8BQ	N8LIH	KB8IEF
9	WK9P	KE9SI	N9IXW	KB9DKQ
Guam	KH2K	AH2CF	KH2EE	WH2AMH
Hawaii	***	AH6JW	NH6UN	WH6CFG
Alaska	***	AL7LO	NL7SS	WL7BVR
USVI	NP2F	KP2BR	NP2DJ	WP2AGZ
P.R.	***	KP4QJ	WP4WX	WP4IOD

*** indicates that all 2 x 1 call signs have been assigned in those areas.

DUTCH HAMS CELEBRATE 60 YEARS OF AMATEUR RADIO

In August 1929, the first Amateur Radio license was issued in The Netherlands. To honor this event the Dutch Amateur Radio organization VERON received permission from the Dutch PTT to use special callsign prefixes for 60 days beginning October 1 and ending November 29. The special prefixes include the number 6 in front of the usual radio district number. (For example, PA0 becomes PA60)

To stimulate contact with the Netherlands during this period, VERON is

issuing a special certificate. US amateurs can qualify to receive the certificate by working 15 Dutch amateur stations using the special prefix. QSL cards or an extract from your log signed by 2 other amateurs is sufficient to obtain the certificate. Send to J. Lourens, PA0BN, Keerweer 13, NL-6862, CD Oosterbeek, The Netherlands. The deadline is March 31, 1990.

NEW CANADIAN CALL PREFIX: VY2

Effective October 30, new amateurs on Prince Edward Island will be issued callsigns with the prefix VY2. Present amateurs on Prince Edward Island will have the option of retaining their VE1 callsigns or, upon request to a DOC District Office, substitute VY2 for the VE1 prefix. New Brunswick and Nova Scotia will remain VE1.

JAPAN'S HAM FAIR '89

The New Hall of the International Trade Center in Harumi, Tokyo was the site of HAM FAIR from August 25-27. HAM FAIR is recognized as one of the largest Amateur Radio events in the world.

Over the 3 day period, the total number of attendees reached approximately 58,000 including 90 people from 14 other countries. Noted guests this year included Dick Baldwin, W1RU, President of IARU, Cheng Ping, BZ1CP, Vice President of CRSA of China, and Wan Xun, BZ1WX, Vice President and Secretary General of CRSA.

8J6JBS OPERATIONS ANTICIPATE LAUNCH OF JAS-1B

The second Japanese amateur satellite, JAS-1B, is scheduled for launch in February, 1990. To commemorate the occasion, the Japan Amateur Radio League (JARL) opened a special station on September 28. The station is located in the Welfare Center of Minami Tane-machi, Nakajinai Minami Tanemachi, Kumagte-gun, Kagoshima Prefecture.

Look for 8J6JBS on all HF frequencies between:

1400-2000 UTC on weekdays
1400-2200 UTC on Saturday
1000-2200 UTC on Sunday and holidays.

8J6JBS will continue operation through the month of February, 1990.

GUEST INTERVIEWS FEATURED ON AO-13 NETS

AMSAT Operations Net Manager Courtney Duncan, N5BF, says that this month, the Operations Net has begun to feature guests from the amateur satellite community.

AMSAT-NA sponsors weekly nets to provide the latest news of the amateur space program. Nets meet Tuesday evenings on 3.840 MHz. The East Coast Net begins at 2100 Eastern time; the Mid- America Net begins at 2100 Central and the Pacific Net begins at 2000 Pacific. On Sunday, AMSAT-NA nets convene at 1900 UTC on 14.282 and 21.280 MHz. There is also a 17 meter net which convenes Sundays at 23:00 UTC on 18.155 MHz.

MACC TAKES ON ADDITIONAL COORDINATION RESPONSIBILITIES

The Mid America Coordination Council, Inc, (MACC) announced that it has accepted the petition of the coordinator for the State of Arkansas as the eleventh state to join its organization.

Other MACC member states include Colorado, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Oklahoma, South Dakota and Wisconsin. MACC claims it is the largest regional organization in amateur radio repeater coordination.

AIRS PROMPTS FCC TO ACT

On August 10, FCC lodged a complaint of harmful interference to the Amateur Service with the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications, Beijing, China. A station in the vicinity of Hangzhou operating on 14188.5 kHz has been causing interference throughout much of the twenty-meter band. The complaint was prompted by reports from ARRL Interference Reporting System volunteers (AIRS).

In his report to the IARU Region 2 conferees in Orlando last month, ARRL President Larry E. Price, W4RA, said that AIRS "was revitalized recently through recruitment of new, well-qualified and enthusiastic volunteers." Both the quality and the quantity of reporting have improved.

For more information on AIRS, contact Luck Hurder, KY1T, at ARRL HQ.

HANDI-HAM VIDEO AVAILABLE

A new videotape of the Courage HANDI-HAM System is available. The 24 minute VHS format tape details the history, philosophy and services of the Courage HANDI-HAM System.

The video, "Making Contacts--Making Friends, the Courage HANDI-HAM Story," is available to any club or organization wishing to show it by writing Sr. Alverna O'Laughlin at HANDI-HAM Headquarters. In your letter, state the date(s) you want to show the video, the approximate number in the audience, and the name of the group or organization to whom it will be shown. Allow 8 weeks lead time for delivery of the tape.

For more information contact the Courage HANDI-HAM System HQ, 3915 Golden Valley Rd, Golden Valley, MN 55422.

MO-KAN COUNCIL OF AMATEUR RADIO CLUBS PRESS RELEASE

Following the recommendation of its Board of Directors, the Mo-Kan Council of Amateur Radio Clubs, Inc. approved unanimously to remove itself from repeater frequency coordination activities.

Mo-Kan undertook repeater coordination for the greater Kansas City area over 15 years ago.

Honored in its resolution was Barry Roseman, WA0LHK, who served as Mo-Kan's frequency coordinator during the entire 15 year period.

US ENTERS INTO THIRD PARTY TRAFFIC AGREEMENT WITH THE FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA

On October 12, the US and the Federated States of Micronesia (V63) entered into an Amateur Radio third-party traffic agreement. This agreement allows radio amateurs in both countries to relay personal messages on behalf of non-amateurs. The agreement also says that if public telecommunications services are not readily available in the event of disaster, communications relating directly to the safety of life or property may be handled by amateur stations in the two countries. Commercial messages or conversations are strictly prohibited under the agreement.

UOSAT-OSCAR-9 QRT

UOSAT-OSCAR-9 became a Silent Key on Friday, October 13, falling out of orbit after eight years, one week and over 45,000 revolutions around the earth. UOSAT-9 was last last heard by ZS6CCD at around 1200 UTC.

UOSAT-9 was launched from Vandenberg Air Force Base on October 6, 1981. During its 8 years in orbit many school children, hams, and space enthusiasts heard its "DIGITALKER" experiment and listened to its telemetry data.

AMSAT-NA SPACE SYMPOSIUM JUST AROUND THE CORNER

This is a reminder that the 1989 AMSAT Space Symposium and Annual Meeting will be held in Des Moines, IA on November 3-6, 1989.

To register use the registration form on the last page of the Amateur Satellite Report #190. Photocopies are acceptable. Mail the completed form to Ralph Wallio, W0RPK, 1250 Highway G24, Indianola, IA, 50125. If you don't have ASR #190, contact Ralph directly by telephone in the evenings at (515) 961-6406. There is little time left to register, so don't delay.

----- End of message 2329 from N8XX @ KC8TW.OH.USA.NA -----

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